

El uso del Pretérito

The Use of the Preterite Tense

The Preterite Tense is used in the following situations.....

1. Actions that were clearly completed in the past.

- Ayer **hice** mis tareas.
- *Yesterday* **I did** my homework.
- Anoche ellas **limpiaron** su cuarto.
- *Last night* they **cleaned** their room.

These actions can be narrowed down to a specific day, time or moment. They are one-time, over and done with events.

Some commonly associated expressions:

- ayer** (yesterday)
- anoche** (last night)
- el lunes** (on Monday (any day)),
- el fin de semana pasado** (last weekend)
- un día** (one day)
- una vez** (once)

2. Isolated, specific actions. These may occur in a series, one after the other. This may focus attention on the beginning or the end of the action.

Examples.....

- **Fuimos** al mercado, **compramos** café, y también **hablamos** con unos amigos.
We went to the market, we bought coffee and also we spoke with some friends.
- **Comimos** a las seis.
We ate (began to eat) at six.
- **Pasó** la tormenta.
The storm passed (ended).
